

ROSIE THE RIVETER CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2019

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today to urge this body to pass H.R. 1773, the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act. This bill would honor the American women who joined the workforce in support of the war effort during World War II.

Millions of women dedicated themselves to strengthening our Nation and answered the call to action by joining the workforce and learning new jobs. Many of these women built the vehicles, the weaponry, and the ammunition that were critical to the war effort. Whether they worked on assembly lines, addressed the troops' medical needs, or tended to ships and farms, Rosies ensured the country continued functioning during the war while often serving as the primary caretakers for their children.

These Rosie the Riveters rose to the challenge and set a powerful example both to working women and for all Americans. Rosies not only faced gender-based discrimination, but Rosies of color fought racial discrimination, all while manufacturing planes, ships, tanks, weapons, jeeps, and everything else that was needed to defeat the enemy in World War II.

Today, their example continues to inspire generations to embody the "We can do it" spirit. The Rosies are among our Nation's greatest living heroines. They deserve recognition and formal commendation for their service to our country while they are still with us.

The Rosies who are still alive are in their nineties, and we need to honor them now. The House version of the Rosie the Riveter Gold Medal Act passed a year ago on November 13, 2019, by unanimous consent and with broad bipartisan cosponsorship. The Senate version, S. 892, which I introduced last year, has 76 cosponsors, including 36 Republicans, as well as all 26 women serving in the Senate of both parties.

This body has already made clear its overwhelming support for the bill. Each State contributed to the war effort, and each State has Rosies awaiting this award.

I would like to tell you about a Rosie the Riveter from my home State of Pennsylvania. I will just put up a poster of a picture of her. As I said, she is a Pennsylvanian. Her name is Mae Krier of Levittown, PA, Bucks County, Southeastern Pennsylvania. Mae worked in a Boeing factory where she helped make B-17 and B-29 warplanes as a teenager during World War II. Mae is now 94 years old and has been working to recognize and honor her fellow Rosies—not for years; she has been working on this for decades.

Mae is a patriot. And Mae is now serving her country yet again during another crisis. She has spent the better part of this year making face masks for those who need them. These polka-dot masks are reminiscent of the bandanna worn by the woman in the famous "We Can Do It" poster.

Mae is the embodiment of the "We Can Do It" spirit. For over 70 years, from the Boeing assembly line where she worked to her sewing machine today, Mae has devoted herself to the betterment of the Nation.

She and her fellow Rosies have earned this Congressional Gold Medal. Many of Mae's friends—her fellow Rosies—have passed away without the recognition that they are worthy of. Thousands more are eagerly awaiting the passage of this bill, in addition to the families of the Rosies who have died.

This honor has already been delayed for far too long. I urge my colleagues to pass this important, time-sensitive legislation.

So, Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged, and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1773.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1773) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition and other material to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1773) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. CASEY. Thank you.

NOMINATION OF AILEEN MERCEDES CANNON

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to support the confirmation of Aileen Mercedes Cannon to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida. Ms. Cannon has a distinguished record of public service, during which she has demonstrated a firm commitment to upholding the United States Constitution and respecting the rule of law. She began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge Steven Colloton on the Eighth Circuit United States Court of Appeals and has served with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida since 2013. I am confident that she will continue to serve the Southern District of Florida well once she is confirmed to the bench, and

I am proud to support her confirmation today.

Mr. CASEY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote begin now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cannon nomination?

Mr. TOOMEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 21, as follows: